

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 02445 241530Z

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-07 SS-15 NSC-05 SY-05 USSS-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 374

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP (SIMON, WILLIAM E.), EG

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL TRAVEL OF SECRETARY SIMON: LUXOR

REF: CAIRO 2385

1. ONE OF PRINCIPAL TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AT LUXOR IS NIGHTLY PRESENTATION OF SOUND AND LIGHT AT KARNAK TEMPLE. SCHEDULE FOR PRESENTATIONS IN VARIOUS LANGUAGES IS INTERNATIONALLY DISTRIBUTED AND NOT SUBJECT TO CHANGE. EMBASSY HAS ARRANGED FOR ADDITIONAL SHOWING ON NIGHT OF MARCH 4 FOLLOWING FIRST REGULAR PRESENTATION IN ARABIC. (FYI: EGYPTIANS ARE ABLE TO CANCEL SECOND REGULARLY SCHEDULED PROGRAM, WHICH IS ALSO IN ARABIC, AND SUBSTITUTE ENGLISH, WITHOUT MAJOR MODIFICATIONS IN PROGRAM. ON NIGHT OF MARCH 5 PROGRAM CALLS FOR FRENCH AND GERMAN PRESENTATIONS, THEREBY ELIMINATING POSSIBILITY OF SUBSTITUTION. END FYI).

2. IN ORDER TO PERMIT SECRETARY AND PARTY TO SEE SOUND AND LIGHT SHOW, ARRIVAL TIME IN LUXOR MUST BE NLT 2000. THIS WOULD PERMIT PARTY TO GO DIRECTLY TO KARNAK WHERE PROGRAM COULD START AT 2040, LATEST TIME OFFICIALS ARE WILLING TO BEGIN ONE-HOUR PROGRAM.

3. WE RECOGNIZE ABOVE TIMING, WHICH WOULD DELAY ARRIVAL OF PARTY AT HOTEL UNTIL AFTER PERFORMANCE, IS SOMEWHAT CUMBERSOME, AND EMBASSY WOULD RECOMMEND EARLIER

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PAGE 02 CAIRO 02445 241530Z

ARRIVAL TO PERMIT TRANSFER FIRST TO HOTEL AND THEN

ATTENDANCE AT PERFORMANCE. SECRETARY'S PARTY IS IN
BEST POSITION TO JUDGE THESE PROBLEMS. WE HAVE IMPRESSION
THAT EGYPTIANS UNWILLING TO DELAY START OF SOUND AND LIGHT
PAST TIMES GIVEN ABOVE.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
EILTS

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